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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH MICHEL, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

SUMO LOGIC, INC., RAMIN SAYAR, and
STEWART GRIERSON,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 4:23-cv-3665

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR VIOLATIONS OF SECTIONS
14(a) AND 20(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Joseph Michel (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and the putative Class defined below, by his undersigned attorneys, alleges as follows based upon personal knowledge with respect to Plaintiff’s own acts, and upon information and belief as to all other matters based on the investigation conducted by Plaintiff’s attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of relevant U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings and other publicly available information.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff brings this putative class action against Sumo Logic, Inc. (“Sumo Logic” or the “Company”), its former chief executive officer Ramin Sayar (“Sayar”), and its former chief financial officer and current chief operating officer Stewart Grierson (“Grierson”, and, together with Sumo Logic and Sayar, the “Defendants”) for violations of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 78n(a) and § 78t(a), and SEC Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9(a) (“Rule 14a-9”).

2. Plaintiff's claims arise in connection with the solicitation of public stockholders of Sumo Logic to vote in favor of a merger transaction ("Merger") pursuant to which Sumo Logic merged into an affiliate of Francisco Partners Management, L.P. ("Francisco Partners"), in exchange for \$12.05 per share in cash ("Merger Consideration").

3. On February 9, 2023, Sumo Logic announced that its board of directors ("Board") had approved the sale of the Company to Francisco Partners, pursuant to a merger agreement ("Merger Agreement").

4. On April 5, 2023, Defendants caused a materially false and misleading definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A ("Proxy") to be filed with the SEC and disseminated to Sumo Logic stockholders, in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9.¹

5. As detailed below, the Proxy contains statements that are false or misleading with respect to material facts, in violation of the above-referenced Exchange Act provisions and Rule 14a-9.

6. The special meeting of Sumo Logic stockholders to vote on the Merger was held on May 10, 2023. 84,039,824 of the 124,088,187 outstanding shares of Sumo Logic common stock voted to approve the Merger. As a result of the materially false and misleading Proxy, shareholders were misled when they voted to approve the unfair Merger, which closed on May 12, 2023.

7. Plaintiff seeks to recover damages suffered by Plaintiff and other similarly situated former Sumo Logic stockholders as a result of Defendants' violations of the Exchange Act.

¹ The Proxy is referenced herein for the purpose of identifying and discussing the challenged materially false and misleading statements. Plaintiff does not incorporate all of the Proxy's numerous and unverified factual assertions into this Complaint.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims asserted herein for violations of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction).

9. Personal jurisdiction exists over each Defendant. This Court has jurisdiction over Sumo Logic because the Company maintains its principal executive offices in Redwood City, California, which is within this District. This Court has jurisdiction over the remaining Defendants because each conducted business in this state by serving as an officer of Sumo Logic, which was led from this District. Moreover, “[w]here a federal statute such as Section 27 of the [Exchange] Act confers nationwide service of process, the question becomes whether the party has sufficient contacts with the United States, not any particular state.” *Sec. Inv’r Prot. Corp. v. Vigman*, 764 F.2d 1309, 1315 (9th Cir. 1985). “[S]o long as a defendant has minimum contacts with the United States, Section 27 of the Act confers personal jurisdiction over the defendant in any federal district court.” *Id.* at 1316.

10. Venue is proper in this District under Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, as well as under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because: (i) the conduct at issue took place and had an effect in this District; (ii) Sumo Logic maintains its primary place of business in this District; (iii) a substantial portion of the transactions and wrongs complained of herein occurred in this District; and (iv) Defendants have received substantial compensation in this District by doing business here and engaging in numerous activities that had an effect in this District.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff was, at all relevant times, a holder of Sumo Logic common stock.

12. Defendant Sumo Logic is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at 855 Main Street, Suite 100, Redwood City, California 94063. Before the Merger, Sumo Logic’s common stock was listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Sumo Logic survived the Merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Serrano Parent, LLC, an affiliate of Francisco Partners.

13. Defendant Ramin Sayar served as Sumo Logic’s chief executive officer (“CEO”)

1 and as a member of the Board at all relevant times.

2 14. Defendant Stewart Grierson served as Sumo Logic's chief financial officer at all
3 relevant times, and became Sumo Logic's chief operating officer immediately following the
4 completion of the Merger.

5 **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

6 **I. Defendants and the Board Elect to Sell Sumo Logic For Inadequate Consideration** 7 **and Prepare Unreasonably Low Financial Projections to Justify the Deal**

8 15. Sumo Logic provides cloud-based software-as-a-service solutions that enable
9 organizations to, among other things, ensure the reliability and security of cloud applications and
10 workloads, including detecting security threats, automating security responses to remediate
11 threats, and performing security analysis and forensics. The Company completed four
12 acquisitions of smaller cybersecurity companies from 2018 to 2021, averaging one acquisition
13 per year.² Sumo Logic used these acquisitions to develop its technology and expand its customer
14 and revenue base.

15 16. In September 2020, Sumo Logic completed its initial public offering at a price of
16 \$22.00 per share. Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC ("Morgan Stanley") served as an underwriter in
17 Sumo Logic's initial public offering, and received fees of \$5 to \$10 million for services it
18 provided to Sumo Logic during the two-and-a-half-year period preceding the Merger.

19 17. After relying on Sumo Logic's stockholders to fund the Company's operations for
20 its first two years as a public company, Sumo Logic began generating strong financial results
21 during its 2023 fiscal year, and had strong prospects for future growth as a stand-alone entity. As
22 is common, private equity firms eager to purchase undervalued companies at bargain basement
23 prices just before their financial performance takes off began to pursue an acquisition.

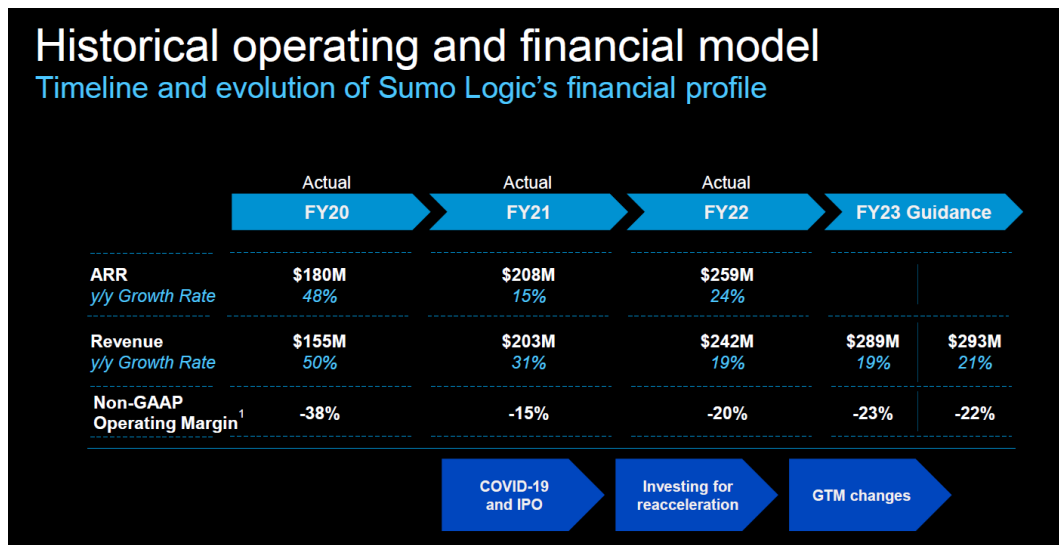
24 18. On June 3, 2022, representatives of Francisco Partners contacted Sumo Logic
25 director Charles Robel to request a meeting. Thereafter, on June 6, 2022, Francisco Partners
26 provided Sumo Logic with a proposal to acquire Sumo Logic for \$11.00 in cash per share. In

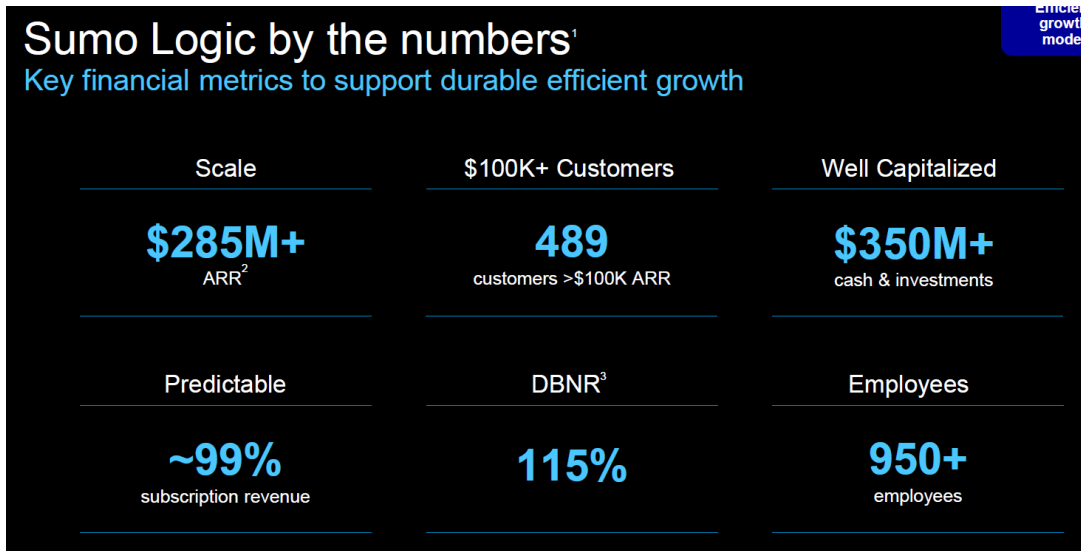
27 ² The acquired companies were Factor Chain (acquired 2018), JASK (acquired 2019), DF Labs
28 (acquired 2021), and Sensu (acquired 2021).

response to the offer, Defendants and the Board conveyed their (i) belief in the strength of Sumo Logic's prospects as an independent public company, (ii) expectations for Sumo Logic to deliver strong financial results for the remainder of its 2023 fiscal year, and (iii) belief that investors would be pleased with the information shared at the Company's upcoming investor day, during which Defendants and other members of Sumo Logic's management team would provide additional details on the Company's business and financial plan, path to profitability and strategic vision.

19. On August 25, 2022, Sumo Logic announced earnings for the second quarter of its 2023 fiscal year. Sumo Logic exceeded the guidance that it had provided to the market with respect to Sumo Logic's total revenue, non-GAAP operating margin and non-GAAP net loss per share for that quarter. Sumo Logic's second quarter fiscal 2023 revenue was \$74.1 million, an increase of 26% year over year. Defendants also told the market that, for the third quarter of fiscal 2023, they expected total revenue between \$73.5 million and \$74.5 million, representing 19% to 20% growth year-over-year, and that, for the full fiscal year 2023, they expected total revenue between \$289.0 million and \$293.0 million, representing 19% to 21% growth year-over-year.

20. On September 20, 2022, Sumo Logic held its investor day, during which Defendants Sayar and Grierson along with other members of Sumo Logic's management team explained Sumo Logic's business and financial plan, path to profitability and strategic vision. Sumo Logic's investor day presentation included the following slides:





21. During the investor day call, Defendant Grierson stated:

So let me just share some key metrics to orient you on our current scale. This is as of Q2 of FY '23. So this is July 31 of this year. So let me start with ARR or annual recurring revenue. So we think – we share this metric because we think this is the leading indicator of growth for a SaaS business. At the end of Q2, we delivered \$286.2 million of ARR, which represented 25% year-over-year growth. Let's talk about our revenue model. So most of our revenue is subscription in nature with our contracts typically being 1 to 3 years in duration. We're not a consumption model.³ There's been some confusion about this in the market, but we're not a consumption model. We recognize revenue ratably over the term of the contract. **This gives us really strong forward visibility and predictability around our revenue.**

22. On October 3, 2022, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic management and representatives of the Company's outside legal advisor, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati ("Wilson Sonsini") in attendance. The Sumo Logic Board determined to explore the possible retention of an investment bank to provide financial advice in conjunction with any third party offers to acquire the Company. The Sumo Logic Board also instructed Messrs. Robel and Sayar to meet with representatives of Francisco Partners to better understand the current state of Francisco Partners' objectives with respect to Sumo Logic. The Board understood that a common tactic for private equity firms interested in a buyout is to acquire shares and threaten a proxy contest if its demands are not met.

³ A "consumption model" refers to a SaaS business model that features usage-based rather than subscription-based pricing.

23. In the days following October 3, 2022, Sumo Logic contacted Morgan Stanley, which was then retained to act as the Company's financial advisor on or around November 4, 2022. Even though Francisco Partners had already made an acquisition proposal, Defendants and the Board did not inquire about Morgan Stanley's ties to Francisco Partners at this time. It was not until Morgan Stanley made relationship disclosures on February 6, 2023—two days before Sumo Logic entered into the Merger Agreement—that Defendants and the Board learned of Morgan Stanley's prior ties to Francisco Partners, including that during the previous two years Morgan Stanley received fees of approximately \$1.0 million from Francisco Partners or certain of its affiliates.

24. On October 10, 2022, Francisco Partners expressed their continued interest in acquiring Sumo Logic.

25. On October 14, 2022, representatives of a potential financial sponsor acquiror, referred to as "Sponsor A", contacted Defendant Grierson. The representatives of Sponsor A expressed Sponsor A's admiration for Sumo Logic and stated that Sponsor A had accumulated a position in Sumo Logic common stock through open market purchases. The representatives of Sponsor A also expressed Sponsor A's interest in being included in any strategic review process.

26. On November 2, 2022, Francisco Partners provided Sumo Logic with a proposal to acquire Sumo Logic for \$11.50 in cash per share.

27. On November 4, 2022, the Sumo Logic Board met. Despite coming off a strong financial quarter, conveying Sumo Logic's strong stand-alone prospects to the market, and having just four months earlier deemed Francisco Partners' \$11 per share offer insufficient to warrant further discussion, Defendants and the Board did a sudden about face, and now determined that Francisco Partners' \$11.50 November proposal could be attractive and that it was appropriate to consider a sale. The Board also delegated authority to its Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee ("Corporate Governance Committee") to oversee and assist Sumo Logic's management and advisors with respect to exploring and negotiating strategic alternatives. The Corporate Governance Committee was comprised of directors Sandra E. Bergeron, Tracey Newell, William D. (BJ) Jenkins, Jr., and Charles J. Robel.

1 28. On November 15, 2022, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with
2 members of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan
3 Stanley in attendance. After reviewing a list of counterparties that might have an interest in
4 pursuing an acquisition of Sumo Logic developed by or with Morgan Stanley, the Corporate
5 Governance Committee determined that Sumo Logic should pursue a targeted, private process.
6 The Corporate Governance Committee further agreed that, as a first step in that process,
7 representatives of Sumo Logic should meet with representatives of Francisco Partners to discuss
8 its November proposal.

9 29. On December 5, 2022, Sumo Logic announced its third quarter fiscal 2023
10 financial results, including that third quarter revenue grew 27% year over year to \$79.0 million.
11 The Proxy conspicuously fails to disclose that Sumo Logic's third quarter earnings beat
12 Defendants' guidance.

13 30. On December 7, 2022, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic
14 management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley in attendance.
15 The Sumo Logic Board discussed the conversations held to date with entities referred to as
16 Sponsor A, Sponsor B and Sponsor C and determined not to include Sponsor A, Sponsor B or
17 Sponsor C in the initial phase of the strategic review process.

18 31. On December 13, 2022, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with
19 members of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan
20 Stanley in attendance. The members of Sumo Logic management described their expectations for
21 Sumo Logic's operating and financial results for fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

22 32. On December 27, 2022, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with
23 members of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan
24 Stanley in attendance. The members of Sumo Logic management reviewed with the Corporate
25 Governance Committee a draft, prepared by Sumo Logic management, of Sumo Logic's
26 preliminary long-range operating plan. In an unusual move, the outside directors that served on
27 the Corporate Governance Committee directed Defendants to refine the plan based on their input.

28 33. Over the following days, Defendants complied with the Corporate Governance

1 Committee's request to refine Sumo Logic's long-range operating plan based on the Corporate
2 Governance Committee's input.

3 34. The initial revision to the long-range operating plan was shared with the full
4 Board on January 6, 2023. Yet again, the Company's outside directors instructed Defendants to
5 refine the preliminary long-range operating plan based on their input.

6 35. On January 10, 2023, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with members
7 of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley
8 in attendance. The Corporate Governance Committee approved the distribution by Morgan
9 Stanley of a bid process letter to those potential acquirors that were still considering an
10 acquisition of Sumo Logic, which would request written acquisition proposals be submitted by
11 January 24, 2023.

12 36. On January 13, 2023, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic
13 management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley in attendance.
14 The members of Sumo Logic management reviewed the twice-revised draft of Sumo Logic's
15 long-range operating plan, which reflected the input received from the Sumo Logic Board at its
16 meeting on January 6, 2023. The Sumo Logic Board approved providing this January 2023 long-
17 range plan (the "January 2023 Long-Range Plan") to Morgan Stanley for purposes of its
18 financial analyses of Sumo Logic and to potential acquirors.

19 37. On January 16, 2023, representatives of a potential financing source referred to as
20 "Financial A" in the Proxy contacted Morgan Stanley concerning Financial A's interest in
21 making a minority investment in Sumo Logic. However, the very next day, the Corporate
22 Governance Committee determined not to pursue discussions with Financial A.

23 38. On January 17, 2023, representatives of Sponsor A contacted representatives of
24 Morgan Stanley and expressed Sponsor A's interest in acquiring Sumo Logic.

25 39. On January 18, 2023, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic
26 management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley in attendance.
27 The representatives of Morgan Stanley reviewed with the Sumo Logic Board preliminary
28 financial analyses of Sumo Logic based on the January 2023 Long-Range Plan.

1 40. On January 23, 2023, *The Information* published an article stating that private
2 equity firms, including Francisco Partners, had approached Sumo Logic regarding an
3 acquisition. The article noted that private equity firms had recently been on a software-buying
4 spree, “taking advantage of low valuations to expand” in the area.

5 41. After *The Information* article was published, several parties reached out to Sumo
6 Logic to convey their interest in participating in the sales process. However, rather than seriously
7 pursuing such interest, Defendants and the Board raced to finalize a deal with Francisco Partners.
8 Indeed, Sumo Logic entered into the Merger Agreement with Francisco Partners just two weeks
9 later.

10 42. Seeking to wrap up the deal without further competition, on January 24, 2023,
11 Francisco Partners submitted a proposal to acquire Sumo Logic for \$11.95 in cash per share.
12 Francisco Partners conveyed its eagerness to sign and announce the transaction within a week.

13 43. On January 26, 2023, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with members
14 of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley
15 in attendance. The Corporate Governance Committee conveyed a desire for a purchase price per
16 share in the teens. The Corporate Governance Committee also instructed Morgan Stanley to
17 inform the parties that had conveyed interest since *The Information* article was published that
18 they would need to act on an accelerated timeline. The Corporate Governance Committee also
19 determined not to engage further with Sponsor A, Sponsor B or Sponsor C.

20 44. In the days following the Board’s January 27, 2023 meeting, Sponsor A continued
21 to express interest in pursuing acquisition discussions and **expressed an ability to offer a price**
22 **of approximately \$13.00 in cash per share.**

23 45. On January 31, 2023, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with members
24 of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley
25 in attendance. The Corporate Governance Committee authorized providing a draft merger
26 agreement to Francisco Partners and Sponsor D, with instructions that such parties return a
27 revised draft of the merger agreement with their acquisition proposals on or prior to February 3,
28 2023. In view of the interest expressed by Sponsor A, the Corporate Governance Committee also

1 authorized providing Sponsor A with the draft merger agreement, but only if Sponsor A
2 expressed an ability to pursue an acquisition of Sumo Logic on an accelerated basis.

3 46. Later on January 31, 2023, Sponsor A entered into a confidentiality agreement
4 with Sumo Logic, which contained a standstill restriction. Sponsor A informed representatives of
5 Morgan Stanley that it required 30 to 45 days to complete its due diligence.

6 47. On February 2, 2023, representatives of each of Francisco Partners and Sponsor D
7 met separately with members of Sumo Logic management and representatives of Morgan
8 Stanley to discuss Sumo Logic's anticipated business and financial results for the fourth quarter
9 of its 2023 fiscal year.

10 48. On February 3, 2023, Francisco Partners provided Sumo Logic with a proposal to
11 acquire Sumo Logic for \$12.00 in cash per share. The February proposal noted that Francisco
12 Partners was prepared to sign a definitive merger agreement and announce an acquisition of
13 Sumo Logic within 48 hours.

14 49. On February 5, 2023, the Corporate Governance Committee met, with members
15 of Sumo Logic management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley
16 in attendance. The representatives of Morgan Stanley reviewed the terms of Francisco Partners'
17 February proposal from a financial point of view. The Corporate Governance Committee
18 discussed that entities referred to in the Proxy as Strategic 4 and Sponsor K had stated an intent
19 to enter into a confidentiality agreement with Sumo Logic, and that Sponsor A had stated that it
20 required 30 to 45 days to complete due diligence. The Corporate Governance Committee
21 instructed Morgan Stanley to inform Francisco Partners that the Sumo Logic Board was likely to
22 be supportive of the February proposal but expected the acquisition price to (1) represent a
23 premium to Sumo Logic's closing stock price on the trading day prior to announcement of a
24 transaction; and (2) be no less than \$12.00 in cash per share of Sumo Logic common stock. The
25 Corporate Governance Committee also instructed Wilson Sonsini to negotiate the remaining
26 terms of the merger agreement and the equity commitment letter with the goal of signing the
27 merger agreement as soon as possible.

28 50. On February 6, 2023, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic

1 management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley in attendance.
2 The decisions of the Corporate Governance Committee were reviewed, along with the terms of
3 the February proposal (including the terms of the revised merger agreement and equity
4 commitment letter provided by Francisco Partners). The Sumo Logic Board was finally and
5 belatedly provided with Morgan Stanley's relationship disclosures, which included disclosures
6 regarding its prior relationship with Francisco Partners as well as Sumo Logic.

7 51. On February 8, 2023, representatives of Morgan Stanley met with representatives
8 of Francisco Partners. The representatives of Francisco Partners informed Morgan Stanley that
9 Francisco Partners would not pay a premium to the closing price of Sumo Logic common stock
10 on February 8, 2023 (which price was \$12.18 per share), and would instead only increase the
11 value of its proposal to \$12.05 in cash per share of Sumo Logic common stock.

12 52. Later on February 8, 2023, Defendants and the Board agreed to accept Francisco
13 Partners' offer. The Sumo Logic Board instructed the representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini
14 and Morgan Stanley to position Sumo Logic to be able to sign the Merger Agreement prior to the
15 start of trading on Nasdaq on February 9, 2023.

16 53. On February 9, 2023, the Sumo Logic Board met, with members of Sumo Logic
17 management and representatives of each of Wilson Sonsini and Morgan Stanley in attendance.
18 The representatives of Morgan Stanley reviewed Morgan Stanley's financial analyses of the final
19 proposal. Morgan Stanley then rendered its fairness opinion. The valuation analyses underlying
20 Morgan Stanley's fairness opinion relied upon the January 2023 Long-Range Plan and
21 extrapolations thereto.

22 54. Later on February 9, 2023, Sumo Logic and Francisco Partners publicly disclosed
23 the signing of the Merger Agreement.

24 55. The Merger closed on May 12, 2023.

25 56. Immediately following the completion of the Merger, Defendant Grierson was
26 promoted to chief operating officer of the surviving Company.

27 57. Additionally, Katherine Haar, Sumo Logic's general counsel, and Jennifer
28 McCord, Sumo Logic's senior vice president finance and chief accounting officer, were elected

1 directors of the surviving Company. Ms. Haar continues to serve as Sumo Logic’s general
2 counsel, and Ms. McCord was promoted to Chief Financial Officer.

3 **II. The Materially False and Misleading Proxy**

4 58. To convince Sumo Logic stockholders to approve the unfair Merger, Defendants
5 caused the materially false and misleading Proxy to be disseminated to the Company’s public
6 stockholders.

7 59. Defendants prepared the prospective financial information for fiscal years 2024
8 through 2026 contained in the January 2023 Long-Range Plan, along with extrapolations for
9 fiscal year 2027. Defendants also reviewed and approved the extrapolations for fiscal years 2028
10 through 2033, which were prepared by Morgan Stanley. The January 2023 Long-Range Plan and
11 the extrapolations are defined in the Proxy as the “Projections”, and are set forth on page 59 of
12 the Proxy.

13 60. The Projections were provided by Defendants to the Corporate Governance
14 Committee and the Board for the purposes of their consideration, analyses and evaluation of the
15 Merger and other strategic alternatives.

16 61. In preparing and approving the Projections, Defendants utilized a material
17 assumption that they knew was entirely unreasonable and completely inconsistent with Sumo
18 Logic’s recent financial performance and their own genuine expectations for the Company’s
19 performance. Specifically, **Defendants prepared the Projections assuming a decline in**
20 **revenue growth to just 14 percent for fiscal year 2024.**

21 62. Defendants knew that preparing the Projections assuming a decline in revenue
22 growth to just 14 percent in fiscal year 2024 was entirely unreasonable and completely
23 inconsistent with Sumo Logic’s recent financial performance and their own genuine expectations
24 for the Company’s performance.

25 63. Indeed, Defendants knew that during Sumo Logic’s third quarter of fiscal year
26 2023, Sumo Logic’s revenue was \$79.0 million, **an increase of 27% year over year.**

27 64. Commenting on the third quarter 2023 results on December 5, 2023, Defendant
28 Sayar stated: **“We delivered revenue growth of 27% year-over-year in the third quarter**

1 while also driving better operating efficiencies, and will continue to emphasize efficient growth
2 as we drive towards future cash flow break even and profitability...Our unified cloud-native
3 platform for reliability and security continues to resonate with our customers and industry
4 analysts as more customers are seeking to provide best in class digital experiences to their end
5 users.”

6 65. During the third quarter 2023 earnings call held on December 5, 2023, Defendant
7 Sayar stated: “We are pleased with the continued progress and strength in our business. We once
8 again exceeded the high end of all of our guided metrics. In Q3, we delivered total revenue of
9 \$79 million, or **27% year-over-year revenue growth[.]**”

10 66. On the same call, Defendant Grierson stated: “Thanks, Ramin. And thanks
11 everyone for joining us on the call. I'd like to start with a brief summary of the financial
12 highlights for the quarter and then go into more detail on each topic. First, as Ramin mentioned,
13 **we've continued to deliver strong top line results with Q3 year-over-year revenue growth of**
14 **27%[.]**”

15 67. In conjunction with Sumo Logic's third quarter 2023 earnings announcement,
16 Sumo Logic also stated that it expected to achieve total revenue for the fully fiscal year 2023
17 between \$298.0 million and \$299.0 million, **representing 23% growth year-over-year.**

18 68. On March 7, 2023, Sumo Logic announced its strong fourth quarter and fiscal
19 year 2023 financial results, which included the following highlights: fourth quarter revenue grew
20 19% year over year to \$79.8 million; **full year fiscal 2023 revenue grew 24% year over year**
21 **to \$300.7 million.**

22 69. As illustrated by Defendants' above-referenced statements and Sumo Logic's
23 financial performance immediately preceding and during the time that Defendants prepared the
24 Projections, Defendants knew that assuming a decline in revenue growth to just 14 percent for
25 fiscal year 2024 was wholly unreasonable and a false and inaccurate representation of Sumo
26 Logic's financial prospects. Indeed, in December 2022 Defendants stated that they expected full
27 fiscal year 2023 revenue growth of 23% year-over-year, and Sumo Logic ultimately achieved
28 full fiscal year 2023 revenue growth of 24% year-over-year.

70. Preparing the Projections by assuming a decline in revenue growth to 14 percent in fiscal year 2024 had a significant impact on all the projected metrics. Indeed, utilizing growth rates of 25% for 2024 and 2025—which is consistent with Sumo Logic’s historical performance and expectations for 2026—results in the following metrics:

Year	<u>2024E</u>	<u>2025E</u>	<u>2026E</u>	<u>2027E</u>	<u>2028E</u>	<u>2029E</u>	<u>2030E</u>	<u>2031E</u>	<u>2032E</u>	<u>2033E</u>
Revenue (Millions)	\$342	\$413	\$520	\$665	\$850	\$1,070	\$1,291	\$1,502	\$1,680	\$1,805
Growth Rate	14%	21%	26%	28%	28%	26%	21%	16%	12%	7%
Corrected Revenue (Millions)	\$376	\$470	\$592	\$758	\$970	\$1,222	\$1,479	\$1,716	\$1,922	\$2,057
Growth Rate	25%	25%	26%	28%	28%	26%	21%	16%	12%	7%
Revenue Difference (Millions)	\$34	\$57	\$72	\$93	\$120	\$152	\$188	\$214	\$242	\$252
Revenue Difference (Percentage)	10.0%	13.8%	13.8%	14.0%	14.1%	14.2%	14.6%	14.2%	14.4%	14.0%

71. Because Defendants elected to prepare the Projections utilizing a revenue growth percentage for 2024 that they knew was wholly unreasonable and inaccurately reflected Sumo Logic’s financial prospects, the following statements in the Proxy were materially false or misleading.

72. *First*, the Proxy at page 59 falsely stated: “In preparing and approving the Projections, Sumo Logic management utilized the following material assumptions. Sumo Logic management using its business judgement, **believed in good faith that these assumptions were reasonable: A decline in revenue growth to 14 percent in fiscal year 2024** before reaccelerating to 21 percent and 26 percent in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively.” As indicated by their knowledge, expectations, and statements regarding Sumo Logic’s revenues, financial performance, and prospects, Defendants Sayar and Grierson did not actually believe in good faith that assuming a decline in revenue growth to 4 percent for fiscal year 2024 was reasonable. Rather, Defendants knew that assumption—which significantly reduced the Projections and made Sumo Logic look less value than it actually is—was unreasonable.

73. *Second*, and similarly, the Proxy at page 57 falsely conveyed that the Projections were not inaccurate or misleading and that they were “reasonably prepared and/or approved based on the best currently available estimates and judgments of Sumo Logic management of the future financial performance of Sumo Logic.” Specifically, page 57 of the Proxy states: “The Projections were prepared and/or approved by, and are the sole responsibility of, Sumo Logic management. At Sumo Logic’s direction, Morgan Stanley relied on the accuracy and completeness of the Projections utilized in its financial analyses and its advice to the Sumo Logic Board, as well as the assurances of Sumo Logic management that (1) it was not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make such information inaccurate or misleading; and (2) the Projections were reasonably prepared and/or approved based on the best currently available estimates and judgments of Sumo Logic management of the future financial performance of Sumo Logic.” Once again, Defendants Sayar and Grierson knew that the Projections were *not* reasonably prepared and did *not* reflect their best estimates and judgments of the Company’s future financial performance. Indeed, they knew that assuming a decline in revenue growth to 4 percent for fiscal year 2024 was entirely *unreasonable* and that the Projections did *not* reflect their genuine best estimates of the Company’s future financial performance.

74. *Third*, the Projections themselves, set forth on page 59 of the Proxy, are materially false and misleading because they contain revenue projections that Defendants knew were unreasonably low and did not accurately or reasonably reflect the Company’s financial prospects:

The following table presents a summary of the Projections. This table corrects for the additional add-back of amortization of intangible assets for fiscal years 2024 through 2027 that is further described in the section of this proxy statement captioned “—Background of the Merger.”

(dollars in millions)	Fiscal year ended January 31,									
	January 2023 long-range plan unaudited financial information					Extrapolations				
	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E
Revenue	\$342	\$413	\$520	\$665	\$850	\$1,070	\$1,291	\$1,502	\$1,680	\$1,805
EBIT ⁽¹⁾	(\$34)	(\$4)	\$38	\$81	\$136	\$196	\$266	\$344	\$423	\$496
Depreciation	\$2	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$3	\$2	\$0
EBITDA (Unburdened by Stock-Based Compensation) ⁽²⁾	(\$32)	(\$2)	\$39	\$81	\$140	\$200	\$270	\$347	\$425	\$496
Stock-Based Compensation ⁽³⁾	(\$79)	(\$87)	(\$95)	(\$86)	(\$101)	(\$115)	(\$125)	(\$130)	(\$127)	(\$117)
Taxes	(\$2)	(\$2)	(\$3)	(\$3)	(\$12)	(\$24)	(\$39)	(\$58)	(\$80)	(\$101)
Capital Expenditures	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)	\$0
Change in Net Working Capital	\$16	\$32	\$21	\$13	\$17	\$20	\$20	\$19	\$16	\$11
Unlevered Free Cash Flow (Burdened by Stock-Based Compensation) ⁽⁴⁾	(\$98)	(\$60)	(\$39)	\$5	\$44	\$80	\$125	\$177	\$234	\$289

1 75. The Projections were also misleading because they failed to take into account
2 Sumo Logic's practice of expanding its customer base and developing its technology through
3 acquisitions of smaller companies as part of its standalone business strategy. As noted above, in
4 the years prior to the acquisition, Sumo Logic acquired one company per year on average, only
5 holding off on acquisitions during 2020 – the height of Covid lockdowns and the year of the
6 Company's IPO.

7 76. In 2018, Sumo Logic acquired the IT threat investigation business Factor Chain to
8 “accelerate[] the development of a new class of converged IT ... security solutions”. In 2019, the
9 Company acquired the cybersecurity operations center software company JASK to “broaden[]
10 Sumo Logic's portfolio [and] rich joint ecosystem of customers . . . while accelerating the
11 companies' mutual strategy to deliver” an automated security operations center service. And in
12 2021, Sumo Logic acquired two companies – DF Labs and Sensu – making up for its pause in
13 2020. According to Sumo Logic, the acquisition of DF Labs helped develop the Company's
14 security intelligence offerings and expand the Company's “ecosystem of customers”. Likewise,
15 the Sensu acquisition “accelerate[d] Sumo Logic's observability strategy by providing customers
16 with an affordable, extensible, and scalable end-to-end solution for infrastructure and application
17 monitoring.”

18 77. Because customer base expansion and technological development were
19 fundamental drivers of Sumo's revenue base and growth rate, the Projections once again failed to
20 accurately describe the Company's financial prospects and did not represent management's
21 genuine best estimates of the Company's financial prospects.

22 78. *Fourth*, the implied value per share ranges of Sumo Logic Common Stock under a
23 Public Trading Comparables Analysis and Discounted Equity Value Analysis, set forth on pages
24 51 and 52 of the Proxy, are materially false or misleading, because they were derived utilizing
25 the unreasonably low revenue projections and thus presented a misleadingly low value for
26 shareholders' shares:
27
28

Public Trading Comparables Analysis

Public Trading Multiples	Implied Value per Share Range of Sumo Logic Common Stock (\$)
AV / CY2023E Revenue	
street case	7.26 – 13.12
Projections	7.18 – 12.94
AV / CY2024E Revenue	
street case	7.91 – 13.24
Projections	8.13 – 13.70

Discounted Equity Value Analysis

Forecast Scenario	Implied Value per Share Range of Sumo Logic Common Stock (\$)
street case	5.91 – 11.15
Projections	10.47 – 15.31

79. The key input in both the Public Trading Comparables Analysis and Discounted Equity Value Analysis was Sumo Logic’s projected revenues. Thus, the implied value per share ranges were significantly lowered as a result of the unreasonably low, false and misleading revenue metrics set forth in the Projections.

80. Moreover, none of the Proxy’s so-called “cautionary language” warned that Defendants *did not actually believe* in good faith that the assumptions utilized to prepare the Projections were reasonable.

81. As Sumo Logic’s chief executive officer and chief financial officer, Defendants Sayar and Grierson were directly involved in making and/or approving each of the challenged statements, which relate to the Projections that they prepared or to their purported beliefs regarding the Projections.

82. These misrepresentations in the Proxy were material to shareholders because they directly relate to the value of Sumo Logic shares, the fairness of the Merger Consideration, and management’s views regarding the reasonableness of the Projections.

III. Loss Causation - Sumo Logic Shareholders Suffered Loss as a Result of the False and Misleading Statements in the Proxy

83. The Proxy caused Sumo Logic's stockholders economic loss by inducing them to accept a sale that underpriced their shares. Moreover, since the acquisition could not have occurred without the approval of Sumo Logic shareholders, the Proxy was an essential link in the accomplishment of the Merger and the misleading statements were the cause of the Class's economic loss.

84. If Sumo Logic shareholders had not been deceived by the above-referenced materially false and misleading statements and had been accurately informed of Sumo Logic's true value at the time of the acquisition, the Company stockholders would not have voted to approve the Merger at the \$12.05 price offered by Francisco Partners, which would have caused Francisco Partners to increase its offer, allowed one of the other interested suitors to make a superior offer, or enabled the stockholders to keep their shares in a Company whose value was greater than the price paid in the Merger. Under any scenario, shareholders would have obtained or maintained greater value than the price they received for their shares.

85. Indeed, Defendants' conduct caused Sumo Logic shareholders to lose out on alternative options that offered greater value, including the \$13.00 expression of interest conveyed by Sponsor A or continuing with the Company's stand-alone plan. Sponsor A was unable to proceed with its \$13.00 per share expression of interest because it was initially ignored or rebuffed, and Defendants and the Board then raced to finalize the Merger with Francisco Partners rather than providing Sponsor A with a reasonable amount of time to finalize its diligence and proceed with its offer.

86. Moreover, Defendants failed to pursue another potentially more valuable alternative by rejecting the overture from Financial A, which was interested in making a minority investment in Sumo Logic and thus would have allowed stockholders to maintain their equity in the Company.

87. Additionally, the Company's stand-alone plan offered shareholders greater value than the Merger Consideration. Indeed, one equity research analyst (Blair Abernethy of

1 Rosenblatt Securities) had a price target for Sumo Logic of \$18.00 per share as of January 20,
2 2023.

3 88. Furthermore, according to a discounted cash flow analysis performed by analysts
4 from Simply Wall Street on February 24, 2023, Sumo Logic had an estimated fair value of
5 \$18.34. The analyst indicated that Sumo Logic was undervalued by the market by 35%.

6 89. Moreover, shareholders' shares were worth \$18.98 based on Wall Street analysts'
7 projections, and \$15.31 based on management's Projections. Thus, shareholders suffered
8 financial loss when they had their shares cashed out for the Merger Consideration of just \$12.05
9 per share.

10 90. Lastly, as a result of the materially false and misleading Proxy, Sumo Logic
11 shareholders were deceived into foregoing their appraisal rights under Delaware law. If the
12 Proxy had not deceived shareholders regarding the Company's fair value and the reasonableness
13 of the Projections, a sufficient number of shareholders would have elected to exercise their
14 appraisal rights under Delaware law, and would have received more than the \$12.05 Merger
15 Consideration in an appraisal, as the Company's fair value exceeded the Merger Consideration.

16 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

17 91. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 on behalf of
18 himself and all other similarly situated former public stockholders of Sumo Logic who were
19 harmed by Defendants' actions alleged herein (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are: (i)
20 Defendants and members of their immediate families; (ii) the officers and directors of the
21 Company and members of their immediate families; and (iii) any person, firm, trust, corporation,
22 or other entity related to or affiliated with any Defendant.

23 92. This action is properly maintainable as a class action because:

24 (a) The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. As
25 of the April 3, 2023 record date to vote on the Merger, there were 124,088,187 shares of
26 Sumo Logic common stock outstanding and entitled to vote, held by hundreds to
27 thousands of individuals and entities dispersed throughout the country. The actual
28 number of former public stockholders of Sumo Logic will be ascertained through

discovery;

(b) There are questions of law and fact that are common to the Class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including: (i) whether Defendants misrepresented material information in the Proxy in violation of Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act; (ii) whether the Defendants violated Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act; and (iii) whether the Class suffered damages.

(c) Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class, has retained competent counsel experienced in litigation of this nature, and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class;

(d) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class and Plaintiff does not have any interests adverse to the Class;

(e) The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the party opposing the Class;

(f) Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class with respect to the matters complained of herein, thereby making appropriate the relief sought herein with respect to the Class as a whole; and

(g) a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

Against All Defendants

for Violations of Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9

93. Plaintiff incorporates and repeats each and every allegation above as if fully set forth herein.

94. Section 14(a)(1) of the Exchange Act makes it "unlawful for any person, by the use of the mails or by any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce or of any facility of a

1 national securities exchange or otherwise, in contravention of such rules and regulations as the
2 Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection
3 of investors, to solicit or to permit the use of his name to solicit any proxy or consent or
4 authorization in respect of any security (other than an exempted security) registered pursuant to
5 section 78l of this title.” 15 U.S.C. § 78n(a)(1).

6 95. SEC Rule 14a-9, 17 C.F.R. §240.14a-9, promulgated pursuant to Section 14(a) of
7 the Exchange Act, provides:

8 No solicitation subject to this regulation shall be made by means of any Proxy, form of
9 proxy, notice of meeting or other communication, written or oral, containing any
10 statement which, at the time and in light of the circumstances under which it is made, is
11 false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or which omits to state any material
12 fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not false or misleading or
13 necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the
14 solicitation of a proxy for the same meeting or subject matter which has become false or
15 misleading.

16 96. Defendants caused the Proxy containing the above-referenced materially false or
17 misleading statements to be disseminated to Sumo Logic’s shareholders, in violation of Section
18 14(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder.

19 97. By virtue of their positions within the Company, and/or roles in the process of
20 preparing, reviewing, and/or disseminating the Proxy, Defendants were aware of their duty not to
21 make false and misleading statements in the Proxy.

22 98. Yet, as specified above, in violation of Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and
23 Rule 14a-9, Defendants knowingly made untrue statements of material fact in the Proxy, in order
24 to induce Sumo Logic stockholders to vote in favor of the Merger.

25 99. The misrepresentations in the Proxy specified above are material insofar as there
26 is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Sumo Logic Stockholder would have considered
27 them important in deciding whether or not to vote in favor of the Merger.

28 100. Since Sumo Logic could not consummate the Merger unless the proposal to adopt
the Merger Agreement was approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the
shares of Sumo Logic common stock issued and outstanding, the Proxy soliciting the votes of
Sumo Logic stockholders was an essential link in the accomplishment of the Merger.

101. As a direct and proximate result of the dissemination of the materially false and misleading Proxy that the Defendants used to obtain shareholder approval of the Merger, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages and actual economic losses (*i.e.*, the difference between the value they received as a result of the Merger and the true value of their shares at the time of the Acquisition) in an amount to be determined at trial. By reason of the misconduct detailed herein, Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Exchange Act and SEC Rule 14a-9.

COUNT II

Against Sayar and Grierson for

Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act

102. Plaintiff incorporates and repeats each and every allegation above as if fully set forth herein.

103. Sayar and Grierson acted as controlling persons of Sumo Logic within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act, as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as officers and/or directors of Sumo Logic, and participation in, and/or awareness of Sumo Logic's financial performance, prospects, and operations, and/or intimate knowledge of the contents of the Proxy filed with the SEC, they had the power to influence and control, and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision-making of Sumo Logic with respect to the Proxy, including the content and dissemination of the various statements in the Proxy that are materially false and misleading.

104. Sayar and Grierson were provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Proxy and other statements that were false and misleading prior to and/or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.

105. Sayar and Grierson had direct and supervisory involvement in the negotiation of the Merger and the preparation of the Projections, and, therefore, are presumed to have had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the securities violations alleged herein, and exercised same. In particular, Sayar and Grierson were directly involved in

1 preparing the false and misleading Projections and the Proxy sets forth their purported opinions
2 regarding the Projections. Moreover, the Proxy was signed by Sayar. Sayar and Grierson were
3 thus directly involved in the making of the statements challenged herein.

4 106. In addition as described herein, Sayar and Grierson were involved in negotiating,
5 reviewing, and approving the Merger. The Proxy purports to describe the various issues and
6 information that Sayar and Grierson reviewed and considered in connection with such
7 negotiation, review and/or approval.

8 107. By virtue of the foregoing, Sayar and Grierson had the ability to exercise control
9 over and did control persons whom or an entity which violated Section 14(a), by their acts and
10 omissions as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as controlling persons, Sayar and
11 Grierson are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

12 108. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of Sayar and Grierson and the
13 misleading Proxy that the Defendants used to obtain shareholder approval of the Merger,
14 Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages and actual economic losses (*i.e.*, the difference
15 between the value they received as a result of the Merger and the true value of their shares at the
16 time of the Merger) in an amount to be determined at trial. By reason of the misconduct detailed
17 herein, Sayar and Grierson are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

18 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment and relief as follows:

20 A. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and
21 certifying Plaintiff as Class Representative and his counsel as Class Counsel;

22 B. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class all damages sustained as a result of Defendants'
23 wrongdoing, including, but not limited to, compensatory and/or rescissory damages.

24 C. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on any
25 damages award.

26 D. Granting Plaintiff and the Class the costs and disbursements of this action,
27 including reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees, and expenses;

28 E. Awarding extraordinary and/or equitable relief as permitted by law, equity, and

1 the federal statutory provisions sued upon hereunder; and

2 F. Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

3 **JURY DEMAND**

4 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

5
6 Dated: July 25, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

7 **OF COUNSEL**

/s/ David E. Bower

David E. Bower

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